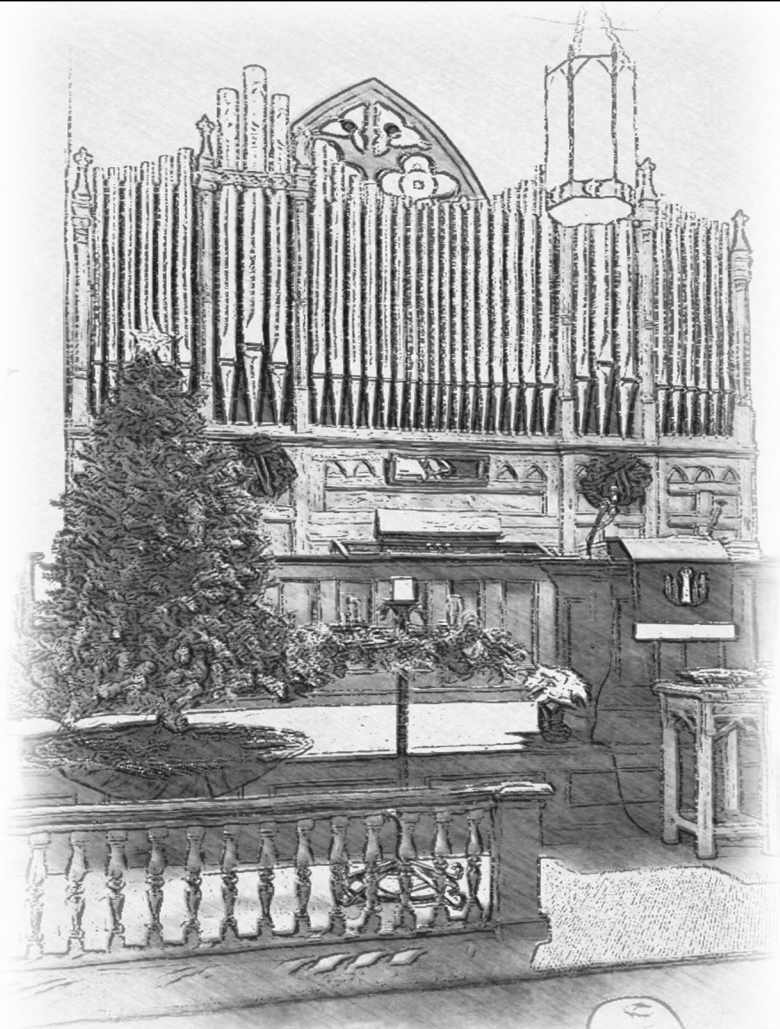


FRANKLIN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Come, Let Us Adore Him
Presence

Sunday December 15, 2024

82 West Central Street, Franklin, MA
508-528-1092

franklinumc.org
office@franklinumc.org

WELCOME TO FRANKLIN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH!

This service of worship is gathering in-person at the church building, in-person via Google Meet, and streaming on YouTube.

This worship aid, or “bulletin,” will guide you through this service, offering you a brief outline and instructions for the service along with the responses, prayers, and lyrics to the songs we will sing together. Congregational responses are typically **bolded**.

Prayer requests can be made by filling out the offering form enclosed with the print bulletins, or by going to **franklinumc.org/pray**. Confidential requests will be sent to the pastor. Non-confidential requests will be distributed to the Prayer Team.

Financial contributions can be made in the offering plate (cash or check made payable to “Franklin United Methodist Church”) or online by going to **franklinumc.org/give**.

To learn about ways you can volunteer, and sign up, go to **franklinumc.org/volunteer**. You can also sign up to volunteer by filling out the offering form enclosed with the print bulletins. All persons who sign up to volunteer will receive an email confirmation of your volunteer registration.

WELCOME

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Children of God, our world is full of the fruit of humanity's greed, apathy, and neglect for the love of God, neighbor, self, and all creation.

What, then, should we do?

Our world is also full of the fruit of God's love that wells up all around us, sustaining us, saving us, reviving us to live as the people of God.

What, then, should we do?

God encircles us on every side, Love divine present with us in creation, in community, and in the anticipated arrival of the infant Emmanuel. What then, children of God, should you do?

We will live in joyful presence with God and neighbor, turning away from sin and toward a life with God and one another marked by joy, justice, mercy, and peace. Amen.

SONG

“O DAY OF PEACE THAT DIMLY SHINES”

No. 729, *UMH (1989)*

ALT. TUNE: SWEET HOUR (UMH 496, “Sweet Hour of Prayer”)

O day of peace that dimly shines
through all our hopes and prayers and dreams,
guide us to justice, truth, and love,
delivered from our selfish schemes.

May swords of hate fall from our hands,
our hearts from envy find release,
till by God's grace our warring world
shall see Christ's promised reign of peace.

Then shall the wolf dwell with the lamb,
nor shall the fierce devour the small;
as beasts and cattle calmly graze,
a little child shall lead them all.

Then enemies shall learn to love,
all creatures find their true accord;
the hope of peace shall be fulfilled,
for all the earth shall know the Lord.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

SILENT PRAYER

PRAYER OF THE DAY

LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory, forever. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING

ISAIAH 12:2-6

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

No matter what troubles overwhelm us today, Isaiah reminds us that in all of our preparation and passionate pursuit of God's coming kin-dom, we must not forget that God's salvation has come and is coming. "With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation" (Isaiah 12:3). With joy you will remember that God's salvation is already present among us.

Faced with the troubles and the suffering of the world, we choose to live in joyful presence to God and one another. We will not turn away from the pain and the hurt in our world, and we will not stop rejoicing in God, whose salvation fills us to overflowing that God's love might flow through us and flood our troubled world with hope, peace, and joy.

RESPONSE

"LIGHT ONE CANDLE" v.1-3

Words and Music by Natalie Sleeth

Light one candle for hope, One bright candle for hope,
He brings hope to ev'ry heart, He comes, He comes.

Light one candle for peace, one bright candle for peace.
He brings peace to ev'ry heart. He comes! He comes!

Light one candle for love, one bright candle for love.
He brings love to ev'ry heart. He comes! He comes!

SCRIPTURE READING

LUKE 3:7-18

REFLECTION

Pastor Jacob

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Creator of the universe,
we stand amazed at your power and glory.
We are eager to worship you and offer our praise,
but we are often reluctant to answer
when we hear you calling our name.
We sing our songs of tribute in the sanctuary,
but shy away from the river,
lest we be baptized
with the fire of the Holy Spirit.
Forgive us when we forget your promise
to be with us always, O God.
Renew us with the power of your ever-present love,
and strengthen us to proclaim your justice
throughout the world.
Amen.

SONG

“O COME AND DWELL IN ME”

No. 388, FWS (2001)

O come and dwell in me,
Spirit of power within,
and bring the glorious liberty
from sorrow, fear, and sin.

Hasten the joyful day
which shall my sins consume,
when old things shall be done away,
and all things new become.

I want the witness, Lord,
that all I do is right,
according to thy mind and word,
well-pleasing in thy sight.

I ask no higher state;
indulge me but in this,
and soon or later then translate
to thine eternal bliss.

OFFERING

DOXOLOGY

No. 95, *The United Methodist Hymnal* (1989)

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Amen.**

PRAYER

SONG “CUANDO EL POBRE (WHEN THE POOR ONES)”

No. 434, *UMH* (1989)

When the poor ones who have nothing share with strangers,
when the thirsty water give unto us all,
when the crippled in their weakness strengthen others,

*Refrain: then we know that God still goes that road with us,
then we know that God still goes that road with us.*

When at last all those who suffer find their comfort,
when they hope though even hope seems hopelessness,
when we love though hate at times seems all around us, *Refrain*

When our joy fills our cup to overflowing,
when our lips can speak no words other than true,
when we know that love for simple things is better, *Refrain*

When our homes are filled with goodness in abundance,
when we learn how to make peace instead of war,
when each stranger that we meet is called a neighbor, *Refrain*

SENDING

THE PEACE

The peace of the Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

POSTLUDE

THANK YOU FOR JOINING US!

We hope that you found, in our community, a place to experience meaningful relationship with God, grow in Christ, and reach out in love to others. We hope that this community has been a place where you feel welcome, acceptance, and love. If you have questions about the church, or are interested in becoming a member of the church, please feel free to contact any of the leaders listed below.

franklinumc.org

Franklin United Methodist Church
PO Box 313
82 W. Central Street
Franklin, MA 02038

508-528-1092
office@franklinumc.org

Rev. Dr. Jacob W. Juncker, Pastor
jacob@franklinumc.org

Deidre Bassignani, Administrator
deidre@franklinumc.org

Paul Seaver, Custodian
Linda Zardeskas, Chair of Church Council
George Remus, Lay Leader & Treasurer
Dawn Harlow, Financial Secretary
Dawn Pokorny, Lay Member to Annual Conference
Allen Smith, Chair of Personnel Committee
John Milot, Chair of Resource Committee
Inger Anderson, Chair of Committee on Ministry

UPCOMING EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

LOOKING AHEAD

As we look to 2025, we are excited about the possibilities that lie ahead. We aim to expand our programs, strengthen our community partnerships, reach out to more individuals, and continue to restore and renovate our facility. To achieve our goals, we are counting on your continued support. We invite you to make a year-end gift to help close out 2024 on a strong note. Additionally, we encourage you to renew your pledge for the coming year. Thank you for being a vital part of our church family. Your faith, generosity and dedication are truly appreciated. Please return your pledge card by December 22nd.

BLOOMING & GIVING IN DECEMBER

This season, let your purchase do more. Head over to the Franklin Stop & Shop location this month and purchase a specially marked \$10.99 *Bloomin' 4 Good Bouquet*. Every bouquet sold will send us a \$1 donation!

LUNCH BUNCH

Lunch Bunch is a monthly gathering where people talk and enjoy fellowship over a meal at area restaurants. The next gathering will be at **The Railery, Franklin Village Mall on December 18 at 12 PM**. All are welcome. Please notify Nancy Boates by phone 508-654-2833 or email NancyBoates49@hotmail.com by 10 am if you plan to attend.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE 7PM

Join us on Christmas Eve at 7pm for a Candles & Carols traditional service. All are welcome. Details for the service can be found on the church website.

BOOK CLUB

January we will be reading **The Ladies' Midnight Swimming Club** by Faith Hogan. The next meeting will be on **January 14 at 7pm**. The group will meet in a hybrid format at TBD or online (<https://meet.goto.com/richp/churchbookclub>), or phone (224-501-3412, access code 789-141-869).

MEALS ON WHEELS VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Franklin Meals on Wheels office is looking for onsite volunteers, weekday mornings at the church. Meals on Wheels provides nutritious meals to in-need, homebound seniors in Franklin, Bellingham, Blackstone, and Medway. If you are interested or want more information, please contact Jeanne (Monday through Friday, 10a-1p) by phone at [508-520-1422](tel:508-520-1422).